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# HEROES

## CHAPTER 59

# Man on Fire

In the aftermath of the events at Kirby Plaza, D.L. Hawkins renewed his bonds with his wife Niki and their son, Micah. Making a major change in his life, D.L. takes a bold new step in becoming a hero once more...



**FIRE STATION #5,  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.**

CAPTAIN BURKE HAD IT OUT  
FOR ME FROM DAY ONE OF  
FIREFIGHTER TRAINING.

TRAINEE  
CLASS OF 2005

HAWKINS --  
YOU'RE SAVING  
**LIVES** WITH  
THAT WATER, NOT  
FILLING A DAMN  
POOL -- MOVE  
FASTER!

I'M BEATIN'  
EVERYBODY!

IN THE CLASSROOM.  
DURING DRILLS. MAN,  
HE NEVER LET UP.

# MAN ON FIRE

**TIMM KEPPLER      MICHAEL GAYDOS**

*Story*

*Art*

**CHRIS SOTOMAYOR    COMICRAFT    Nanci QUESADA**

*Colors*

*Lettering*

*Editor*

**TWO MONTHS  
LATER...**

I TRIED TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

I GOT A  
FAMILY **TOO** -- JUST  
WANNA DO RIGHT  
BY THEM.

ALL DUE  
RESPECT SIR,  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW A **THING**  
ABOUT ME.

I KNOW  
THE KIND OF FAMILY  
MAN **YOU** ARE.

I KNOW YOU  
AREN'T GONNA BE  
A **FIREFIGHTER**.

**TEST DAY...**

**STOP!** HAND YOUR PAPERS  
TO LIEUTENANT PALMER,  
GET SUITED UP -- TIME FOR  
THE **REAL TEST!**

IT WAS A MOCK FIRE.  
THE TEST: SAVE  
THE DUMMY DOLLS  
INSIDE, PUT OUT THE  
FIRE, GET OUT SAFE.

WE WORK IN TEAMS.  
YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES.  
SUCCESS AND YOU **PASS**  
-- ANYTHING LESS AND  
YOU **FAIL**. GOT THAT?  
HAWKINS?

I GOT STUCK WITH  
**BURKE**. LUCKY ME.

**LIGHT  
IT UP!**





REMEMBER:  
VENTILATE! PROTECT  
EXPOSURE! KEEP AN  
EYE ON EACH  
OTHER!

WE SHOULDA NOTICED THE  
FIRE WAS TOO HOT. TOO  
BIG. BUT **ADRENALINE**  
GOT IN THE WAY.

**KRAK**



SECURE THE  
BEDROOM --  
MEET IN THE  
KITCHEN!

COPY  
THAT!

**KAPOW**

HAWKINS!




IT'S  
TOO HOT --  
I CAN'T  
PASS!

PALMER -- THE **GAS LINE** --  
IT'S SET TOO HIGH! THE  
SHUT-OFF VALVE'S IN THE  
BASEMENT! SOUTHEAST  
CORNER!

CAN'T GET IN,  
CAPTAIN -- IT'S  
COLLAPSED!


GET  
OUTTA HERE,  
HAWKINS!

**KRKSSH**



I'M NOT  
LEAVIN'  
YOU!

GOT NO MORE  
THAN **30 SECONDS**  
'FORE EVERYTHING  
FALLS!



HAWKINS!  
THERE'S NO  
TIME!

I HAD TO SAVE EVERYONE.  
AND THE FASTEST WAY  
TO THE BASEMENT WAS  
**STRAIGHT DOWN.**



CAPTAIN --  
EVERYBODY'S  
TRAPPED?!



HAWKINS?!

HELP!

I CAN'T  
GET OUT!

WE'RE  
TRAPPED!


UNHHH...








I DON'T EVEN *REMEMBER*  
RUNNIN' THROUGH THE  
BASEMENT.



I WAS THINKIN'  
ABOUT *MICAH*.



AND HOW MUCH  
HE'D LOVE TO  
SEE ME USING  
MY *POWERS*  
LIKE THAT.



HMMPH!

*SSFFPHHMM*  
*MM*





I DON'T KNOW, HE *DISAPPEARED*. I CLIMBED DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR BUT I COULDN'T *FIND* HIM.

THERE HE *IS*!



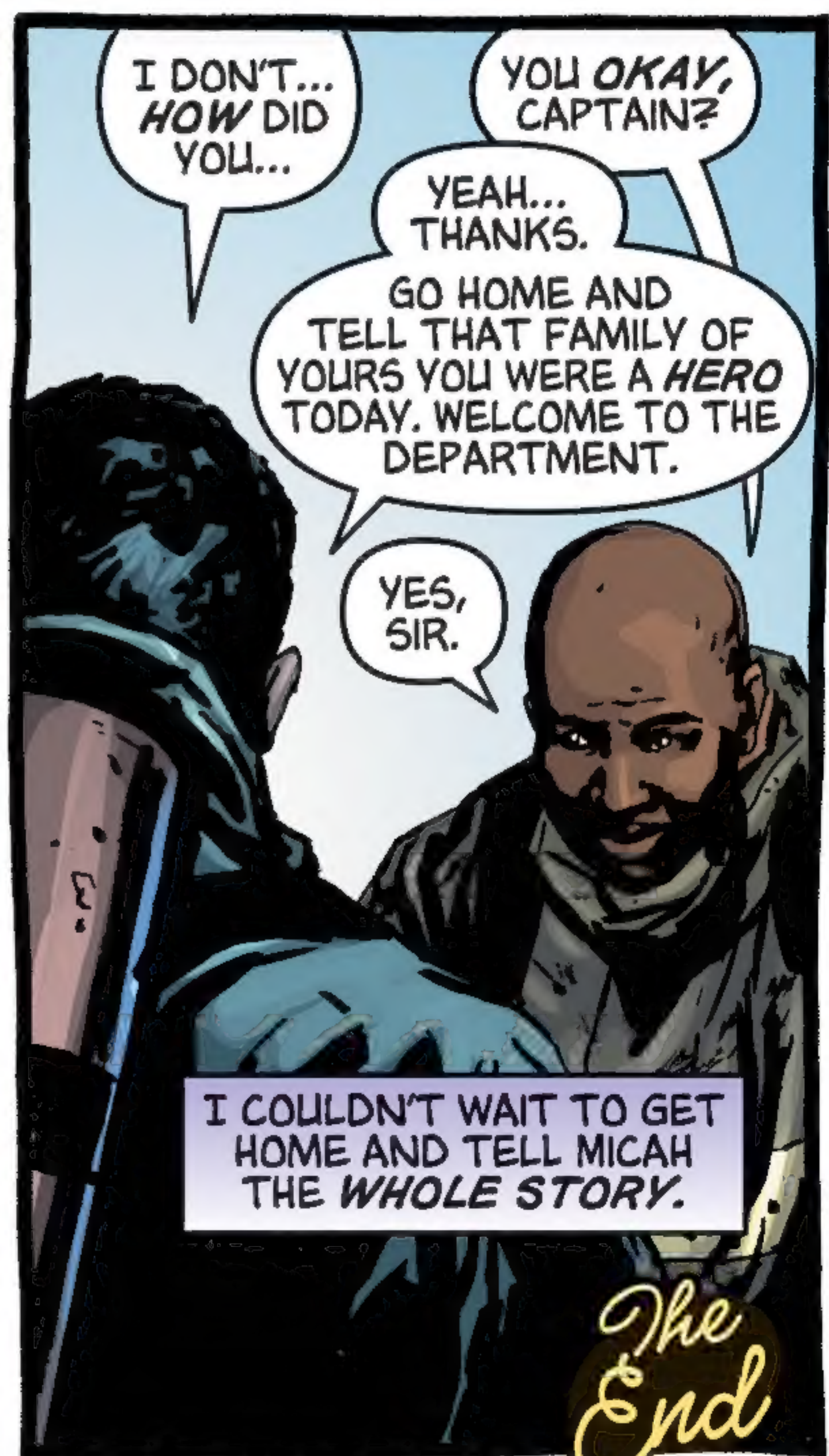
HOW IN THE HELL?



YOU SAVED OUR LIVES.

WE THOUGHT WE *LOST* YOU, HAWKINS.

TAKES MORE THAN *THAT*.



I DON'T... HOW DID YOU...

YOU *OKAY*, CAPTAIN?

YEAH... THANKS.

GO HOME AND TELL THAT FAMILY OF YOURS YOU WERE A *HERO* TODAY. WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT.

YES, SIR.

I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET HOME AND TELL MICAH THE *WHOLE* STORY.

*The End*